The FIRST MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina S. P. Rajagopalachari).—The toll-gate keeper cannot go on enquiring in each and every case whether the man is a local man or an outsider.

Mr. S. SHARABHANNA.—Some concession should be shown to local people, or at least to local agriculturists.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI.—Special concession is being shown in the case of agriculturists.

Mr. S. SHARABHANNA.—Even for other necessary articles like bricks, stones, etc., required for house construction, you must show some concession.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI.—It is very difficult to accept that suggestion. The main difficulty is to find out who is a local man and who is not.

Mr. S. SHARABHANNA.—The man asking for exemption may be asked to produce a certificate from the patel of his village that he is a resident of that village.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI.—As I said, it is a question beset with practical difficulties. We shall, however, consider the suggestion.

Mr. B. SRINIVASA RAO.—The Mulbagal people have got to pay a double toll at the Bethamangala toll-gate which is within 15 miles from the frontier limit. How is it fair to levy it from them?

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Mr. K. V. Anantaraman).—We have since shifted the toll-gate to the neighbourhood of Venkatagirikonda. So the people of Mulbagal will have no more trouble.

Depopulated Villages in Tiptur Taluk.

Q.—23. **Messrs. C. PATTABHIRAMASETTY** (Chiknaikanahalli Municipality) and **Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA** and **G. KANCHAPPA** (Chiknaikanahalli Taluk).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) how many years ago was the village of Doddikatte, Honnavalli Hobli, Tiptur Taluk, depopulated;

(*b*) what is the income from this village at present;

(*c*) what would be the income, if this is improved;

(*d*) how many applications were received so far for the improvement of this village;

(*e*) what action has been taken on these;

(*f*) was there any application from the raiyats of Settikere, Chiknaikanahalli Taluk, in this respect;

(*g*) what action has been taken on this;

(*h*) what is the classification of different kinds of lands in acres in this village?

A.—**The CHIEF SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT (Mr. A. V. Ramanathan).**—

(*a*) About the year 1880.

(*b*) Rs. 298-8-10 (as per jamabandi of 1935-36).

(*c*) About Rs. 100 more.

(*d*) None from raiyats in this taluk.

(*e*) The question does not arise in view of reply to (*d*).

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) After detailed enquiry the applications were rejected.

		Extent		*Assessment*		
		A.	G.	Rs.	a.	p.
(*h*)	Garden	12	9	32	12	0
	Dry ...	189	27	170	8	0
	Wet ...	13	39	48	0	0

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—What is the reason for this village (Settikere) getting depopulated?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—It might have been due to the famine of 1877-78.

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—The raiyats had given a petition that they would re-build the village. Why was that application rejected?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—It is not possible to give away those lands, because there are plenty of date trees standing on them.

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—Are the Government actually deriving any revenue from those trees?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Even if, at present, no revenue is being derived, there are more than 6,000 date trees which can be tapped.

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—When the raiyats want to settle down in a depopulated village, should not the Government encourage them?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Government never said they will not encourage them to build houses and live there. There are 600 acres of waste and gomal lands and if there are applications, Government will be prepared to consider them.

Mr. G. KANCHAPPA.—Are the Government aware that absolutely no revenue has been derived from the trees all these years?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—No.

Mr. C. PATTABHIRAMASETTY.—What is the loss to the Government on account of the village remaining depopulated for so many years?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—There is no loss. Though there are no houses, cultivation is going on.

Mr. C. PATTABHIRAMASETTY.—Is it the intention of the Government to improve their excise revenue at the cost of agriculture?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Not at all. As I said already, agriculture is going on there and the land still available can be given away in *darkhasts*.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET.

Resolution No. 2.

Mr. Hosakoppa KRISHNA RAO moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that far larger grants than provided in the budget for 1935-36 be provided for drinking water wells in the State, their administration being handed over to the District Boards with advantage."

In doing so, the mover represented that the grants made at the time for public improvements were very inadequate. Health, sanitation, and drinking water wells were the imperative needs of villagers. As the Government were interested in the welfare of rural population, they should, instead of waiting for better times, straightaway sanction the programmes of works as and when they were submitted by District Boards, and also provide for the Government's contribution somehow or other. The District Boards should not be regarded as bodies subordinate to the Government, but as independent self-governing institutions, to whose recommendations due weight should be given. In reviewing the administration reports of District Boards, it was usual for the Government to remark that the local bodies should improve their financial resources, but they seemed to forget that there was no way open to them of improving their resources except by additional taxation which was out of the question under the existing economic conditions. He therefore requested the Government to grant suitable annuities to the local bodies from out of the central revenues, the total of such annuities bearing a certain percentage to the entire land revenue collections for the year. There were many reasons why the Government should augment the resources of the District Boards. After the inauguration of the village panchayet scheme, certain items of revenue previously accruing to the District Boards, such as *amarai*, *mohatarfa*, etc., were transferred to the village panchayets. Latterly the district board revenues were further depleted by the Government taking away from them the management of toll-gates. It was not clear to him why the Government should have deprived the District Boards of this important source of income. He requested the Government to give back to the local bodies the administration of toll-gates. He added that as the late Mr. Gokhale had observed, District Boards were the political training ground for the citizens and it was necessary to give financial autonomy to such important bodies in addition to supplementing their income by liberal grants from general revenues. He observed that the budget position of the State was not likely to improve for a long time to come, and he therefore suggested that until the budget position improved, substantial reductions be effected in the expenditure on general administration, and the savings utilised for giving grants to the local self-government institutions.